



Milwaukee County

Board of Supervisors

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Harold Mester, Public Information Manager

414/278-4051 or harold.mester@milwcnty.com

SUPERVISORS OVERRIDE NEARLY ALL OF COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S VETOES

County Board preserves Courts, Public Safety, Parks, Mass Transit and Human Services

Milwaukee, WI – This afternoon, Milwaukee County Board members overrode 19 of the 22 budget vetoes handed down by County Executive Scott Walker earlier this week. County Board Chairman Lee Holloway said the County Executive is trying to draw attention away from the importance of these restored services. “The Board’s product is superior to the County Executive’s,” Chairman Holloway said. “Due to the County Executive’s unrealistic no-tax increase pledge, he had nowhere to go but to veto programs and services valued by our constituents. By contrast, the Board looked at this Budget from a humanitarian perspective. There are important services that can help County residents who desperately need it, and we can provide that help in a cost-effective way,” Holloway said.

Supervisor Richard D Nyklewicz, Jr., Chairman of the Finance and Audit Committee, said he was not surprised by the County Executive’s vetoes. “I am, however, disappointed that the County Executive believes we can continue to maintain essential services for the community without identifying a way to pay for them. He claims to stand for public safety, while at the same time cutting funding for the Courts. That’s very troubling to me,” Supervisor Nyklewicz said. “In his 2008 Recommended Budget, the County Executive also counted on significant revenues from the State that never materialized. Approximately \$4 million in State aid never showed up at the end of the day.”

The final 2008 Budget will raise the County’s property tax levy by 3.67 percent, just above the mean average of other local governments in southeast Wisconsin. This would result in an estimated increase in the County portion of the tax bills of certain County elected officials for 2008 as follows:

Name	Municipality	Assessed Valuation	Est. Change in County Taxes for 2008
Supervisor Nyklewicz	City of Milwaukee	\$152,100	Approximately \$6
Chairman Holloway	City of Milwaukee	\$192,900	Approximately \$7
County Executive Walker	City of Wauwatosa	\$324,400	Approximately \$12

Many communities in Milwaukee County, including Franklin, Fox Point, West Allis, Greenfield and Shorewood, along with Walworth and Kenosha Counties, are raising property taxes more than Milwaukee County (see attached sheet). The property tax levies for the Milwaukee Public Schools and the Milwaukee Area Technical College are both rising at a much faster rate.

The veto overrides this afternoon gave the County Board the final say on the 2008 County Budget. It will be the County Executive's job to administer the Budget beginning January 1, 2008, including all amendments and overridden vetoes from the County Board, which addressed four key areas: Courts/public safety, parks, transportation, and human services.

Courts and Public Safety

The Milwaukee County Board is keeping the community safe by restoring more than \$1.2 million for prosecution and law enforcement efforts. It's important to note that two officials elected countywide called for these positions to be restored. "District Attorney John Chisholm and Chief Judge Kitty Brennan both came before the Finance and Audit Committee to tell Supervisors that the County Executive's budget would not allow them to fulfill their responsibility in meeting the public service needs of the community," said Supervisor Nyklewicz. On a commanding 17-2 vote, the Board responded by restoring nine Legal Research Interns, two Deputy County Clerk Judicial Assistants, and two clerical assistants to handle a growing workload. In addition, the County Board voted 17-2 to restore 15 Deputy Sheriff 1 positions that handle inmate transportation service. The County Executive had proposed eliminating those positions and outsourcing inmate transportation. The County Executive also proposed downsizing the House of Correction K-9 program. The Board voted 19-0 to maintain the program and increase funding for the care of dogs. On a unanimous vote, six Correction Officer positions were restored to provide full staffing for 160 inmates at the Huber Community Correctional Center. Thirty additional positions that were slated for abolishment are restored but not currently funded. In the District Attorney's (DA) office, funding was restored for a critical Paralegal position. District Attorney Chisholm told the County Board the position is crucial for keeping violent sexual predators off the streets of Milwaukee County. "If this paralegal position is not restored, the likelihood of repeat sexual predators in our neighborhoods will increase," Chisholm said. Funding was also restored for a Secretarial Assistant position in the DA's office on a 13-6 vote.

Parks

Board members responded to overwhelming public support for parks, taking bold moves to protect these resources in 2008. Supervisors voted to restore \$3.5 million to the Parks Department, including funding for multiple Parks Maintenance Worker, Special Events, and Community Center positions that were abolished in the County Executive's proposal. On a 16-3 vote, the Board voted to override the County Executive's veto of restored funding for 50 full-time Park Maintenance Worker positions, while leaving 16 vacant Park Maintenance Worker positions unfunded. "In recent years, the Board has already approved major reductions in full-time staffing, transitioning to more *seasonal* workers. We feel we're currently at the optimal mix of full-time and seasonal staffing," said Supervisor Lynne De Bruin, who Chairs the County Board's Parks, Energy and Environment Committee. "A year-round full-time, *seasoned* staff is able to perform the necessary maintenance work on Parks buildings and handle snow removal, which is critical during our Wisconsin winters. They also handle repairs on all parks equipment, small machines and other items such as picnic tables. A full-time staff lets

us complete these duties without outsourcing.” The Budget also increased funding for deferred Parks maintenance projects by approximately \$650,000. “The County Executive continues to ignore the deferred maintenance needs of our deteriorating Parks System, which have escalated to more than \$300 million dollars,” said Supervisor Gerry Broderick, the only member of the County Board on both the Parks and Finance Committees. “In an effort to reverse that trend, it was easy for us to override his Parks veto.”

Transportation

Supervisors preserved more than a dozen Milwaukee County Transit System route segments in Milwaukee County that were eliminated in the County Executive’s 2008 Recommended Budget. The restorations were largely made possible due to the efforts of State Senator Lena Taylor, who prioritized funding for Milwaukee County in the State Budget, particularly in the area of Mass Transit. “Helping County residents get to work, school, church, the doctor and shopping should be one of our top priorities,” said Board Chairman Lee Holloway, who sponsored an amendment restoring service to eight of the route segments. In addition, a Budget Amendment from Supervisor Marina Dimitrijevic prevented a fare increase for disabled riders who use the County’s paratransit service. While the County Board was able to restore these routes, it is not a solution for the long-term needs of the Milwaukee County Transit System. “The County Executive has repeatedly vetoed advisory referenda on additional sales taxes to fund mass transit and other priorities,” said Supervisor Nyklewicz. “Now is the time for him to propose a viable non-property tax dedicated funding source that can earn the approval of the Governor and the State Legislature.”

Human Services

The Milwaukee County Board made the preservation of social services one of its top priorities by voted unanimously to restore funding for the Interim Disability Assistance Program (IDAP), which helps those who are still waiting for Social Security assistance. The average wait is 22 months.

On an 18-1 vote, the Board endorsed helping children in Milwaukee County choose the right path, by overriding the County Executive’s veto of \$150,000 for the Safe Alternatives for Youth (SAY) program and increased funding for the Youth Sports Authority. Both programs provide important prevention activities aimed at keeping juveniles out of trouble. “If just two young people are prevented from ending up in the juvenile correctional system, our \$200,000 investment in the Youth Sports Authority will pay for itself,” Board Chairman Lee Holloway said. The State of Wisconsin charges Milwaukee County almost \$100,000 to send one juvenile to a correctional institution for one year.

Restored funding for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) prevention services means the Behavioral Health Division can continue its efforts to reduce substance abuse in the community, saving additional dollars on treatment. The Board also overrode the County Executive’s veto of restored funding for the 2-1-1 hotline, an important phone number that helps residents find non-life threatening emergency services.

Milwaukee County & Municipal Projected 2008 Tax Levy Percentage Increases Over 2007

• MPS	9.0%
• Franklin	5.6%
• Fox Point	5.2%
• MATC	5.0%
• Walworth County	4.7%
• Kenosha County	4.0%
• West Allis	4.0%
• Greenfield	3.8%
• Shorewood	3.8%
• Milwaukee County	3.67%
• Whitefish Bay	3.5%
• City of Milwaukee	3.3%
• MMSD	3.1%
• South Milwaukee	3.0%
• Oak Creek	3.0%
• Racine County	3.0%
• Hales Corners	3.0%
• Cudahy	2.9%
• Washington County	2.8%
• Wauwatosa	2.8%
• West Milwaukee	2.2%
• Greendale	2.1%
• Waukesha County	2.0%
• Brown Deer	2.0%
• Bayside	2.0%
• Glendale	2.0%
• St. Francis	1.5%
• Ozaukee County	1.5%
• River Hills	1.0%

MEAN AVERAGE **3.3%**

* indicates estimate